

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 368 without my signature.

This bill is similar to measures I vetoed in 2004 and 2006. The addition of a new mandate, no matter how small, will only serve to increase the overall cost of health care. Increasing the cost of coverage by mandating benefits, may ultimately leave more children without any coverage.

I would urge the Legislature to work with me next year on a comprehensive health care reform solution that provides no-cost or low-cost comprehensive coverage to all children below 300% of the federal poverty level, regardless of their documentation status.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger